

REMARKS

Summary of the Present Application

Claims 1-5 remain pending in the present application, and new claim 6 has been added. The Office Action rejected these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for using an undefined acronym (SG). In response, Applicant has amended both the specification and claim 1 to define the term "SG" as an acronym for signal generator.

On a substantive basis, the Office Action rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,361,078 to Caine. Likewise, the Office Action rejected claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Caine. For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully traverses these substantive rejections, and requests that they be withdrawn.

RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(B)

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Caine (U.S. patent 5,361,078). Applicant respectfully traverses the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejections for at the reason that **Caine does not teach, disclose or suggest both a synchronization activator and pattern selector.**

Claim 1 specifically recites:

1. An apparatus for synchronously displaying patterns on panels during testing wherein the panels are driven by a plurality of signal generator (SG) SG cards, the apparatus comprising:
a synchronization activator generating a first signal;
a pattern selector generating a second signal identifying one of the patterns; and

a controller connected to the SG cards and simultaneously activating the SG cards driving all the panels to display the pattern identified by the second signal when receiving the first signal.

(*Emphasis added.*) Applicant submits that claim 1 patently defines over the cited art for at least the reason that Caine does not teach or disclose the features emphasized above.

Claim 1 separately defines the synchronization activator and pattern selector. The pattern selector selects one of the patterns, while the synchronization activator generates a synchronization signal. As noted by the Office Action, the pattern selector of Caine allegedly handles the manipulation of image data. In contrast, the pattern selector of claim 1 does not manipulate the pattern data for the synchronization activator.

Furthermore, the sync generator (which the examiner associated as the synchronization activator), keyboard (which the examiner associated as the pattern selector), and multiplexer taught by Caine operate associatively, in that they are closely integrated into a single system. The sync generator first provides a synchronization signal so that the multiplexer begins to manipulate the image data.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 patently defines over the cited art, and the rejection of Claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Caine does not teach, disclose or suggest SG cards.

In addition to the foregoing reasons, claim 1 further defines over the cited art because claim 1 defines “a controller connected to the SG cards and simultaneously activating the SG cards driving all the panels to display the pattern identified by the second signal when receiving the first signal.” Thus, the purpose of the SG cards is to test panels. As claimed, the SG card is

connected to the controller by multiple signal lines and one control line. The signal lines send various pattern data to the controller while the signal on the control line determines whether a certain pattern is selected. Additionally, the SG card is replaceable.

In contrast, the display card taught by Caine does not have a control line on which a control signal selects a patter for test. The display card of Caine is significantly different from the SG card of the claimed invention.

For at least this additional reason, claim 1 patently defines over the cited art, and the rejection of Claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Caine does not teach, disclose or suggest the controller.

The controller in claim 1 of the claimed invention is connected to the SG cards and simultaneously activates the SG cards driving all the panels to display the pattern identified by the second signal from a pattern selector when receiving the first signal generated by a synchronization activator. It is significantly different from the coprocessor taught by Caine.

For at least this additional reason, claim 1 patently defines over the cited art, and the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Caine teaches, discloses or suggests neither the BCD control unit nor the BCD keypad.

Claims 2-5 patently define over the cited art for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Furthermore, the BCD control unit and keypad in claims 2 and 3 of the claimed invention are convenient and simple input devices for selecting the patterns. It is more suitable for the apparatus claimed in claim 1. However, the keyboard and multiplexer taught by Caine are too complicated and significantly different from the BCD control unit and key pad.

For at least this reason alone, claims 2 and 3 patently define over the cited art, and the rejection of claims 2 and 3 should be withdrawn.

New Claim 6

Claim 6 is similar to claim 1, but adds the further limitation that the pattern selector is independently operable from the synchronization activator. This addition feature clearly defines over the teachings of Canine. In addition, claim 6 patently defines over Canine for all the same reasons as claim 1.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons described above, Applicant believes that claim 1 is allowable in its present form. Insofar as claim 1 is allowable, claims 2-5, which depend from claim 1, and include every claimed element thereof, are also allowable on their own merits in claiming additional elements not included in claim 1.

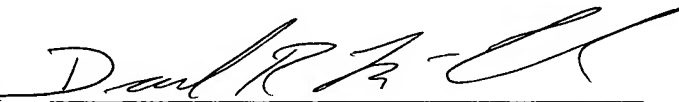
Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested. Applicant has made every effort to place the present application in condition for allowance. It is

therefore earnestly requested that the present application, as a whole, receive favorable consideration and that all of the claims be allowed in their present form.

Should the Examiner feel that further discussion of the application and the Amendment is conducive to prosecution and allowance thereof, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at the address and telephone listed below.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response to Office Action. If, however, any fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,

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